

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 114714

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/W-JMSEGARS:DFP

APPROVED BY AF/W-JLLOUGHRAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 114714

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIA WITHOUT STEPHEN TOLBERT'S INFLUENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE RE THE DEATH OF STEVE TOLBERT AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE LIBERIAN ECONOMY APPEARED IN MAY 19 ISSUE OF BUSINESS WEEK: QUOTE: THE DEATH IN AN AIR CRASH OF FINANCE MINISTER STEPHEN TOLBERT LAST WEEK IS LIKELY TO SPEED THE EMERGENCE OF A POLICY OF TOUGHER BARGAINING WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS IN LIBERIA. TOLBERT, BROTHER OF LIBERIA'S PRESIDENT, WAS A JET-SETTER WITH BUSINESS INTERESTS WHO WAS REGARDED BY FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN AS A FRIEND WHO WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE ON THEIR BEHALF. BUT HE HAD ALSO BEGUN TO RESPOND TO INTERNAL CRITICISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED BY FOREIGN CONCESSIONAIRES. NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS WITH AN AMERICAN COMPANY ON A BIG TIMBER CONCESSION ARE VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT TEST OF THE NEW POLICY. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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